GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3560
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2016
Defacing of Historical Heritages along Ganga River
Rajput Shri Mukesh

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any guidelines to prevent the defacing of the historical heritages at the bank of Ganga river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of defacing of such heritages on tha banks of Ganga river in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh in spite of the guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for conservation of such historical heritages?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a)&(b) No, Madam. However, there is a provision of penalty under section 30 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958, of imprisonment which may extend to 2 years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both for defacement of centrally protected monuments including those on the bank of Ganga river.

(c)&(d) No specific incidents of defacing of monuments occurred in the country, including in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Instances of scribblings and graffiti on the walls of some monuments, may be due to lack of awareness and ignorance about the cultural heritage.

(e) With a view to contain such activities, Archaeological Survey of India is organizing periodic awareness programmes and also through exhibitions at the monuments from time to time by involving public as well as school and college students. The issue is also highlighted during the World Heritage Week celebrations, all over the country through the initiative of Circle/Branch and regional offices of Archaeological Survey of India. Further, watch and ward staff have been asked to be vigilant in order to stop such acts and the supervisory staff undertake regular inspections. In addition the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police guards and CISF have also been provided for the safety and security of selected monuments.